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ISSN: 0095-2699

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OCT 16 '75

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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

# AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES INFORMATION NOTES

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CONTROL OF HORTICULTURAL CATALOGS

**Richard A. Farley**  
Director, NAL

Stepping off the elevator on the fourth floor of the NAL building one encounters a modest office enclosure containing an array of vertical files and card catalog cases. The quiet orderliness belies what is so carefully preserved here. This is NAL's Nursery and Seed Trade Catalog Collection. Some uninitiated visitors are likely to smile when this is pointed out to them. It summons up visions of a pleasant hobby collecting attractive garden catalogs. How wrong they are in making this evaluation of the NAL collection!

It was begun more than 70 years ago as a result of the activities of Percy L. Ricker, an economic botanist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1919, the collection came under the joint administration of the Library and the Division of Fruit and Vegetable Crop and Diseases of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering.

Much of the credit for building the NAL collection must go to Miss Nellie Callaway, who retired in June 1973. During the 1950's catalogs were coming into NAL at the rate of 2000 a year. For many years Miss Callaway indexed the fruit and nut varieties. This work was stopped in 1969 for lack of clerical support.

During the year before her retirement Miss Callaway introduced Henry Gilbert to the collection. Gilbert's academic background is in ornamental horticulture. He took on the collection along with his regular duties as a reference librarian at NAL. Gilbert has been aggressive in his effort to rejuvenate the collection, to index it, to preserve it, to keep it up-to-date, and to give it publicity.

Botanists and botanical bibliographers consider nursery catalogs as important research source material.

Plant varieties protection scientists consider them vital to their work. While libraries collect them routinely not very much attention is given to their control and dissemination. Most significant is that the catalogs in the NAL collection are likely to be one of a kind, no other exists!

In 1973 the collection was discussed at the Board of Directors Meeting of the Associates NAL, Inc. Consideration was given to seeking funds for a feasibility study on the restoration of the Nursery Seed Trade Catalog Collection and the development of a computerized information system for the collection. A short-term advisory committee was appointed: Robert Lederer, Vice-President and Richard P. White, Consultant, American Association of Nurserymen, Inc. and Charles R. Long, Administrative Librarian, New York Botanical Garden.

Gilbert insisted at that time that U.S.D.A. people outside NAL become involved in the decision-making concerning the collection. This was easily accomplished. NAL received enthusiastic assistance and advice from U.S.D.A. scientists. Gene Eisenbeiss, Research Horticulturist with the National Arboretum, went through the entire collection item by item. His report formed the basis for the final recommendations that will follow.

A group of concerned librarians and horticulturalists met at Winterthur, Delaware August 2, 1974 at the invitation of Charles van Ravenswaay, Director of the Museum to discuss the advisability and feasibility of a union checklist of horticultural catalogs, seed lists, and nursery catalogs. The participants included Charles van Ravenswaay, Director of Winterthur Museum; Cornelia Tyler and Elizabeth Woodburn of the Council of

Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Committee on a Union List of Seed Catalogs; Ruth Schallert, U.S. Smithsonian Institution Botany Branch Library; Russell Seibert, Director, Longwood Gardens; Nathaniel Puffer, Assistant Director of Libraries, University of Delaware; Eugene Eisenbeiss, U.S. National Arboretum, and four representatives from the National Agricultural Library: Richard A. Farley, Director; Alan Fusonie, Rare Books Librarian; Henry Gilbert, Reference Librarian; and Leila Moran, Information Officer and Executive Secretary of the Associates NAL, Inc.

The value of a union checklist, the various uses of such a list, period to be covered, funding and other technicalities were fully discussed. NAL agreed to assume leadership and responsibility for establishing a checklist of early American catalogs up to 1920.

NAL has been studying the practical problems of producing such a checklist. Discussions have been held with NAL's automation analysts. It is now clear that the collection presents no insurmountable problems to automation of the checklist. It should be pointed out, however, that the NAL attitude toward automation has been tempered by the article "Demythologizing Biological Data Banking" by Stanwyn G. Shetler, Associate Curator, Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution. (TAXON 23(1): 71-100. February 1974).

At a subsequent Board meeting November 14, 1974 the Associates NAL, Inc. re-examined the status of the project. It was resolved that the Associates NAL, Inc. continue its interest in and support of a union checklist of American horticultural catalogs to 1920, but that it withdraw active participation until such time as NAL indicates what type of assistance would be useful in continuance of the project.

Finally, in January 1975, NAL sought advice from Harry Dewey, a librarian specialist in cataloging and indexing, and a man with long experience in plant names, taxonomy and nomenclature.

Following is a summary of actions to be taken by NAL:

1. The title will be: *Union Checklist of Nursery and Seed Trade Catalogs to 1920: Preliminary Edition*. This is seen as a pilot project that can be expanded into an up-to-date international union list. The pilot project should provide criticism valuable to the success and format of the complete project.

2. The preliminary *Checklist* will contain only NAL holdings. Each entry will be numbered. It will be circulated to other libraries for annotation of holdings.
3. To insure completeness of the project, cooperation will be needed from, among others:
  - a. Libraries, especially the leading agricultural library in each state (county, province, etc.)
  - b. State horticultural societies
  - c. State nurserymen's associations, and
  - d. Specialized plant societies, e.g. Holly Society of America (an international registration authority), American Daffodil Society (not an international registration authority), and the American Broneliad Society (in a field in which no international registration authority is appointed.)
4. The *Checklist* will be in two parts:
  1. Alphabetical by firm name
  2. Geographical by state, then firms listed alphabetically within each stateChanges in the firm name will be listed.

Target date for the issuance of the preliminary edition of this *Checklist* is Summer 1975. It should be understood by those concerned that preparation of the *Checklist* is an extracurricular activity of several NAL staff members. The rigid ceilings on staff do not permit expansion of our programs.

During the past several months we have received some very helpful comments from our colleagues around the world. We appreciate these and hope that they will keep coming.

## COMPUTER-OUTPUT-MICROFICHE (COM)

In 1971 the National Agricultural Library began to automate its current serial records. The title given to this new data base was "Serial Titles Automated Records", or STAR. Various types of reports are generated from the STAR data base in hard copy printouts, which are too voluminous and costly for widespread distribution. In an effort to find a positive solution to ever increasing costs and the severe shortage of computer paper, the National



Agricultural Library is piloting a Computer-Output-Microfiche (COM) project to produce fiche in lieu of hard copy printouts.

If the fiche are successfully received by testing groups the project will be expanded to other automated data bases. The microform medium, being less costly and less bulky, can be given wider distribution than the printed form. If there is sufficient demand, various distribution sources will be explored.

On the one-time pilot, distribution was made to USDA agency field libraries, land-grant colleges, cooperating institutions, and some of the major Federal libraries. Project Officer is Miss Nancy L. Ayer.

## NEWS NOTES

Dr. Richard P. White, Consultant, American Association of Nurserymen, Inc. has presented the manuscript of his forthcoming book *A century of service, a history of the nursery association of the United States* to the National Agricultural Library. Dr. White has done major research in this field and the Library has been the recipient of much of his collected source material.

Dr. Richard A. Farley, Director, National Agricultural Library, is contributing a paper on information networks; technology — input and out-put mechanisms, to the V World Congress of IAALD, Mexico, D. F. April 14-18, 1975. The paper presents some of the NAL experiences and will be read by Miss Olga Lendvay, Inter-American Center of Agricultural Documentation and Information, Turrialba, Costa Rica.

A new course on "Information Sources in the Agricultural Sciences" is being offered at Texas A&M University covering the whole range of the agricultural sciences, as well as the use of libraries. Among the special collections holdings emphasized is the notable Jeff Dykes Range Livestock Collection. Dr. Henry L. Alsmeyer, Jr., Associate Director Texas A&M University Library will be happy to communicate with anyone concerned with the teaching of the literature of agriculture. His telephone number is (713) 845-6111.

## NAL SERIAL GAP LIST - NO. 3

*The following journal issues are this month's continuation to the list of gaps in NAL's collection. If*

*you can furnish any of these items, please address to:*

*Selection Section - GAPS  
National Agricultural Library  
10301 Baltimore Blvd.  
Beltsville, MD 20705*

- 1. Annales (Institut Pasteur) 116: 2-3, 1969; 118: 2, 1970*
- 2. Annales de microbiologie. 124A: 3, 1973*
- 3. Bulletin (Japanese Society of Scientific Fisheries) 37: 6-7, 1971, 38: 1-7, 1972; 39: 2-11, 1973*
- 4. Norwegian journal of zoology. 21: 3, 1973*
- 5. Notes techniques (Centre d'Ecologie Forestiere. Belgium.) 12, 1970*
- 6. Pure and applied chemistry. 14: 3-4, 1967; 23: 1-4, 1971*
- 7. Science tools (Stockholm) 12: 2-3, 1965; 13: 1, 1966; 14: 1, 1967; 15: 2, 1968*
- 8. Southeast Asian journal of tropical medicine and public health (Thailand) 2: 1-4, 1971; 4: 1-4, 1973*
- 9. Tropical animal health and production (London) 2: 2-4, 1970; 4: 1-4, 1972*

## NEW PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

*Agricultural production efficiency.* Committee on Agricultural Production Efficiency, Board on Agriculture and Renewable Resources, Commission on Natural Resources, National Research Council (National Academy of Sciences, 1975; 199p.; ISBN 0-309-02310-6;) \$6.50  
Apply to publisher

*Borna disease; a literature review.* Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Northeast Region, February 1975 (ARS-NE-56) 25p  
Apply to Agricultural Research Service

*Index to publications of the Colorado State University Experiment Station, 1965-1973.* Fort Collins. 1974. 50p. Available from publisher

*More water for arid lands: promising technologies and research opportunities.* Report of an

Ad Hoc Panel of the Advisory Committee on Technology Innovation; Board on Science and Technology for International Development; Commission on International Relations, National Research Council; Board on Science and Technology for International Development, 1974; 153p. Available from the Board, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C. 20418

*1975 U.S. Agricultural Outlook.* Papers presented at the National Agricultural Outlook Conference Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Held in Washington, D. C., December 9-12, 1974. Prepared for the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, United States Senate, December 23, 1974. Washington, U.S. Government Printing Office., 1974. 339p. (93rd Congress, 2d Session. Committee Print) NAL has a very limited number of copies available for distribution. Please send a self-addressed mailing label when requesting

*Nutrients and toxic substances in water for livestock and poultry.* Subcommittee on Nutrient and Toxic Elements in Water; Committee on Animal Nutrition; Board on Agriculture and Renewable Resources; Commission on Natural Resources, National Research Council. Washington, D. C., National Academy of Sciences, 1974, 93p. (ISBN 0-309-02312-2) \$3.50. Order from: Printing & Publishing Office, National Academy of Science, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20418

*Projects, products, and services of the National Center for Education Statistics 1974.* Washington, D.C., U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Education Division, 1974. 105p. \$1.75. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402

Special attention is called to the two-page summary of the on-line timesharing computer system, EDSTAT, which has been expanded. EDSTAT II has added educational data bases, reduced computer communication costs, provided greater analytical and programming capabilities, and augmented the documentation. If you are interested in joining the User Community or wish more information on the data bases and contractual arrangements, write to:

EDSTAT  
National Center for Education Statistics  
Room 3059, FOB6  
400 Maryland Ave., S.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20202

## AGRICULTURAL DATE BOOK

*May 6-8: SYMPOSIUM ON MANAGEMENT OF FOREST AND RANGE HABITATS FOR NONGAME BIRDS.* Tucson, AZ. Contact: Bud Bristow, Arizona Game and Fish Dept., State Office Bldg., 415 West Congress St., Tucson, AZ 85701

*May 22-23: MINICOMPUTERS IN LIBRARIES.* Mayo Clinic Library, Rochester, Minnesota

*May 22-24: MIDWEST ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS CONFERENCE.* Ohio State University Libraries. Contact: Rita Hirschman, Ohio State University Libraries, Columbus, Ohio 43210

*June 8-12: SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSN.* Chicago, Palmer House Hotel. Contact: Ralph Lessing, Promotion Coordinator, SLA. 235 Park Ave. S., New York, N. Y. 10003

*June 15-20: 20th SEMINAR ON THE ACQUISITION OF LATIN AMERICAN LIBRARY MATERIALS (SALALM)* Bogota, Colombia. Contact: Mrs. Pauline P. Collins, Executive Secretary of SALALM, Secretariat, University of Massachusetts Library, Amherst, MA 01002

*June 18, 1975: COMPUTER NETWORKS: TRENDS AND APPLICATIONS, symposium.* . . Gaithersburg, MD. Sponsor: IEEE Computer Society, and the National Bureau of Standards. Write: Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 639, Silver Spring, MD 20901

*June 29-July 5: ALA CONFERENCE.* San Francisco, CA

*July 5-9: 2nd MID-PACIFIC LIBRARY CONFERENCE.* Honolulu, Hawaii. Contact: HLA Travel and Housing Control Center, Group Travel Unlimited, Post Office Box 2198, Honolulu, Hawaii 96805

*Sept. 24-26: AGRICULTURAL LITERATURE SYMPOSIUM - PROUD HERITAGE, FUTURE PROMISE.* Beltsville, MD. Contact: Executive Secretary, The Associates NAL, Inc., 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, MD 20705